

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1185

By Hakeem

A RESOLUTION to honor Rhyne Howard upon being selected first in the 2022 WNBA draft.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing a dynamic athlete and native Chattanooga who displays a fierce competitive spirit while remaining cool, calm, and collected at all times; and

WHEREAS, Rhyne Howard, formerly of Bradley Central High School and the University of Kentucky, was recently selected first in the 2022 WNBA draft by the Atlanta Dream, which traded up in the draft for the opportunity to select this extremely gifted and versatile basketball player; and

WHEREAS, a 2018 graduate of Bradley Central High School, Rhyne Howard was honored as Tennessee Gatorade Player of the Year and Tennessee Miss Basketball during her senior season; and

WHEREAS, she played for the U.S. women's basketball national team in both 2018 and 2019 and helped her team win a gold medal in the 2018 World Cup; and

WHEREAS, Rhyne Howard then matriculated at the University of Kentucky, where her prodigious talents earned her USBWA National Freshman of the Year honors; and

WHEREAS, a veritable superstar at Kentucky, she was named SEC Player of the Year in 2020 and 2021 and was also honored as a unanimous first team All-American in 2021; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2022, Rhyne Howard scored the 2,000th point of her collegiate career, becoming just the third Wildcat to reach that milestone; and

WHEREAS, she led Kentucky to its first SEC tournament title since 1982, as the Wildcats handed South Carolina, the eventual 2022 national champion, its second and final loss of the season in the championship game; and

WHEREAS, overall a two-time first team All-American and three-time All-SEC selection, Rhyne Howard finished her career at Kentucky averaging 20.5 points and 7.4 rebounds per game; and

WHEREAS, Rhyne Howard now ranks in the top ten in almost every statistical category at Kentucky, and she scored the second-most points in program history for both women's and men's basketball; and

WHEREAS, we are most certain that Rhyne Howard will bring fresh energy and a competitive spark to the Atlanta Dream and vastly improve the team's perimeter game as she continues down her path to athletic glory as a WNBA player; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Rhyne Howard upon being selected first in the 2022 WNBA draft, salute her outstanding basketball career at Bradley Central High School and the University of Kentucky, and wish her much continued success as she competes in the WNBA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.